

MILPITAS MATTERS

Updates from Interim City Manager Steve McHarris



March 6, 2020

Welcome to the latest edition of the City Manager's Biweekly *Milpitas Matters*. Find out what's happening throughout the community and learn more about special events.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Milpitas Counts!

The official launch day for the Census is March 12! Mail notifications for the Census will begin to arrive on that date. The Census questionnaire will also become available online then.

The results of the Census determine the number of seats each state receives in the U.S. House of Representatives, as well as the distribution of federal funds. California currently receives over \$76 billion of federal funds annually.

It's important that everyone in Milpitas is counted! For more information, please check the County of Santa Clara's page on the 2020 Census [here](#).

Introducing the Milpitas Planning Pipeline

The Milpitas Planning Department is piloting the *Milpitas Planning Pipeline*, a new text-based notification service to send messages about upcoming meetings and topics related to Planning matters on residents' mobile devices.

To opt-in, residents simply text the word PLANNING to (855) 402-1400.

Residents can choose to receive which Planning topics to receive updates on. Other keywords that residents can type for updates include:

ZONINGMAP - responds with a link to the City's online interactive Zoning Map

ZONINGORD - responds with a link to the City's online Zoning Ordinance

GPU - responds with a link to the latest newsletter about the General Plan Update

CENSUS - responds with a link to information about the Santa Clara County Census

PCAGENDA - responds with a link to the Milpitas Planning Commission webpage

INFO - responds with a list of the above keywords

Only residents who sign up for the service and provide a text-enabled phone number will receive text messages from the City. Phone numbers will be secure, and not used for any other purpose.

Please note, the City will never ask for any personal information from you over text. Do not respond to any text message claiming otherwise.

For any further information, please contact the Planning Department at (408) 586-3273

PayNearMe – an Easy Way to Pay Your Utility Bill with Cash!

In an effort to expand the accessibility of utility bill payment with cash, the City has partnered with PayNearMe, a Bay Area company that provides secure payment technology.

Utility customers can now pay their bi-monthly utility bills at eight local CVS Pharmacy or 7-Eleven locations, as well as thousands of locations nationwide, at no extra cost. While shopping at either store, customers can simply pay their bills at the cashier – no need to stand at a separate line!

Real-time integration allows payments to be received by the City in minutes. There's no risk of overpayment – customers won't be able to make payments when they have no invoice or a zero balance.

The City's utility customers can also pay their bills online, or by calling (844) 678-4546. Customers may also pay utility bills at City Hall, Monday through Friday between 8:00 AM and 5:00 PM, except on City observed holidays.

UPCOMING EVENTS AND MEETINGS

Community Input on Annual Budget

March 18 at 6:30 PM

Pearl Zanker Elementary School, Learning Center, 1585 Fallen Leaf Dr, Milpitas

March 25 at 6:30 PM

Milpitas Sports Center, Annex Room, 1325 E Calaveras Blvd, Milpitas

April 1 at 6:30 PM

SJCC – Milpitas Extension, Classroom 3, 1450 Escuela Pkwy, Milpitas

The City's annual budget is the simple most important policy action that City Council takes. The budget funds the City's priorities for the upcoming year and beyond.

The Milpitas City Council wants to hear from you to make sure that the budget reflects the goals and priorities of the community! Please join us at any of the three planned community meetings during the next four weeks to learn more about the City's fiscal outlook, the Council's priority areas, and the budget process.

You can also take the [City's online budget survey](#) to share your input on how we should invest in our future.

Coffee with a Cop, March 14 at 9:00 AM to 11:00 AM at Peet's Coffee, 543 E. Calaveras Blvd, Milpitas

Join the Milpitas Police Department for coffee and casual conversations! Coffee with a Cop is a casual atmosphere for citizens and visitors to have conversations with local police officers. No agenda or speeches, just a chance to ask questions, voice your concerns, and get to know some of the local officers in your community. Free coffee will be served! For more information, contact the Milpitas Police Department at (408) 586-2526

Project Sentinel Drop-in Clinic, March 11 at 6:00 PM to 7:00 PM at City Hall Committee Room

Project Sentinel is a local non-profit agency that provides fair housing, tenant-landlord counseling and dispute resolution services to the City of Milpitas. The City of Milpitas partners with Project Sentinel to provide bi-monthly drop-in clinics and monthly educational workshops for tenants and landlords in the Milpitas community.

Come learn and ask questions about new Milpitas programs – Rent Review Ordinance and Pilot Rent Relief Program, new state laws on rent increases, limits on tenancy termination and relocation payment, evictions, or security deposits. No appointment is necessary; counseling is free and confidential.

If you have any questions, please contact the Building Safety and Housing Department staff at (408) 586-3269.